



Commonwealth of The Bahamas

**Office of The Leader of
His Majesty's Loyal Opposition**

PRESS STATEMENT

**OPPOSITION LEADER PLACES QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA OF THE HOUSE
OF ASSEMBLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT**

The Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, the Hon Michael C. Pintard placed a number of questions on the agenda of the House of Assembly for Prime Minister Phillip Davis and his Administration to answer on Wednesday September 29th 2022. The list of questions included the following:

1. Has the Public Procurement Board been appointed as required by the Public Procurement Act (PPA)? Who are its members? Is it reviewing all bid contracts over \$250,000 as required by law?
2. Has the Procurement Review Tribunal been established as required by the PPA? Who are its members?
3. Is every government agency and state owned enterprise publishing the summary details of contracts awarded consistent with the requirements of the PPA? Which specific agencies are compliant? Which agencies are not compliant?
4. What is the status of the pilot project for the roll-out of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) announced in November 2021? What is the specific roll out dates for each of the agencies within the pilot project? What is the timeline for the roll out of the FOIA for all remaining public sector agencies and state own enterprises?
5. What is the scope of works for Rothschilds & Co in their advisory capacity? What is the value and duration of the contract?



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6. Will the government confirm that the provisions of the Debt Management Act were followed with the announced \$20 million loan to the Ministry of Housing? Were the proceeds of the loan deposited in the Consolidated Fund as required by the Act? Was the process to select the lender done through a competitive bidding process? Who has ultimate responsibility for repayment of the loan? What are the fees, charges and interest rates associated with the facility? Would the government lay the agreement in the House of Assembly?
7. When will the government ensure that the now past due reports from the Fiscal Responsibility Council be provided to Parliament and published as required by the Fiscal Responsibility Act?
8. Will the government explain to Parliament why it decided to break the law by providing a budget with a target deficit that is outside the fiscal objectives the government set in its own Fiscal Strategy Report 2021, knowing that the Fiscal Responsibility Act expressly requires the government to produce a budget consistent with the deficit targets established in the annual fiscal strategy report?
9. Will the government explain to Parliament why it has broken the law and implemented the elimination of duty on yachts purchased and operated by wealthy people outside of the required Parliamentary process? Does the government not recognize that its excuse claiming that this unauthorized tax cut is facilitated by the "Remission" clause makes no sense as such provision is not applicable?
10. Will the government provide an explanation as to whether BPL is using its operational revenue to cover the increased fuel cost to the company? If so, will the government indicate how this expenditure is to be covered and if the government will be required to provide a taxpayer funded subsidy to BPL to cover any element of the fuel expenditure?
11. What are the terms of engagement for the consulting firm McKinsey & Company? What procurement process was used to engage this firm? How many bids were received? What is the value of the contract and how much has been spent to date?



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12. What are the terms for the contract or contracts for the development of the Pinecrest Subdivision in southern New Providence? What procurement method was used for these contracts and how many bids were received? What is the value of the contract or contracts? How much has been paid out to date?
13. The Prime Minister in social media has indicated that the government is subsidizing BPL to avoid an increase in costs to customers? When was this policy formally communicated to the Bahamian people? What is the value of the subsidy? How much has been paid out? If the subsidies are to cover the increased cost of fuel, how does this align with the law that requires BPL to adjust the surcharge to meet its fuel obligations? Is the government in breach of the related regulations?
14. Will the government provide the annualized additional incremental costs associated with the labor agreements it has completed since coming to office? Will the government indicate if it aligns with relevant related budgetary allocations for the current fiscal year? Will the government explain how the projected costs related to these labor agreements aligns with the reduction in public sector staff related costs projected over the medium term in its Fiscal Strategy Report 2021?
15. Can the Minister with responsibility for Housing confirm the purpose why Bahamians were evicted from the domes in Abaco?
16. Can the Minister responsible for Housing advise this Honourable House why the Member of Parliament for South Abaco seemed blind sided with the decision to demolish the domes/ Did her Ministry advise the MP for South Abaco of the date and time when the domes would be demolished?



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17. Can the Minister for Housing confirm if the purpose of removing these domes is to make space for a new housing development and if that is the case, can the Minister confirm if the bid to construct these homes have gone out to tender?
18. Can the Minister responsible for Transport confirm the exact amount of Taxi Plates given out or distributed since the PLP came to power?
19. Will the Prime minister and Minister of Finance table in this Honourable House the list of individuals and companies who have been awarded government contracts since the PLP came to office and considering that his government is in violation of the Public Procurement Act?
20. Will the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance advise this Honourable House why his government continues to break the law in relation to the Public Procurement Act?